

Keywords List Using the JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2015 Publication

Published annually, the *Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) Special Operations Research Topics* provides a list of relevant and timely U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) research topics for researchers and students with an inclination "to provide insight and recommendations on issues and challenges facing the SOF enterprise." You can access the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2015* through this link: <https://jsou.socom.mil/PubsPages/Publications.aspx>.

To organize and prioritize these research topics effectively, JSOU utilized the lines of operation of the Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to divide forty-seven SOF research topics into the following six sections: A. Priority Topics; B. Win the Current Fight; C. The Global SOF Network; D. Preserve the Force and Families (POTFF); E. Responsive Resourcing; and F. Additional SOF Issues. Often, an individual research topic within a section corresponded to other research topics within and outside of its designated section.

At the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), we sorted the individual research topics from the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2015* publication into a list of keywords (using the bolded and underlined keywords headings below) for our students to use when selecting a research topic. Each keywords heading contains the JSOU research topics that address aspects of the heading within the research topic titles and/or topic discussions. In this keywords list, an individual JSOU research topic does fall within multiple keywords headings quite frequently. Additionally, we included the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2015* page numbers to assist our students as they refer to the JSOU publication for the topic discussions that provide detailed descriptions and relevant questions for each research topic. Good luck and happy SOF researching!

Acquisition

- A9. Assessing the rapid acquisition of technology: Winning the current fight in a strategic context, p. 4
- E4. Evaluating competition versus responsiveness in the acquisition process, p. 20
- E6. Exploring rapid acquisition and operational employment within SOF, p. 21
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26

Afghanistan

- A6. Determining the role of SOF in advising at the ministerial and senior command levels, p. 3
- A10. Implementing policy during a period of fiscal uncertainty, p. 5
- B2. Maintaining situational awareness with a light SOF footprint, p. 7
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9

Authorities; Law; Legislation

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- A7. Analyzing sanctuary management in the Sahel, p. 4
- A10. Implementing policy during a period of fiscal uncertainty, p. 5
- B3. Analyzing the use of contractors on the battlefield, p. 8
- E3. Establishing predictable contingency manning: The role of private military contractors, p. 20
- F7. Determining the right USSOCOM organization? p. 28
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Budget; Fiscal; Fund; Resourcing

- A8. Evaluating the cost versus benefit of maintaining a forward SOF presence, p. 4

Budget; Fiscal; Fund; Resourcing (cont.)

- A10. Implementing policy during a period of fiscal uncertainty, p. 5
- B2. Maintaining situational awareness with a light SOF footprint, p. 7
- C2. Building a SOF network under conditions of financial austerity, p. 11
- C3. Maintaining SOF relevance as the U.S. reduces its global military presence, p. 12
- E2. Leveraging research and development for SOF purposes, p. 20
- E7. Expeditionary contracting capabilities, p. 22
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26
- F4. Evaluating how career SOF NCOs fare in transition, p. 27
- F7. Determining the right USSOCOM organization? p. 28
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Campaign Planning

- A3. Assessing tactical operations for strategic effect: Is there a disconnect? p. 2
- B6. Developing phased communication strategies to support military campaigns, p. 9
- F9. Influencing attitudes in addition to behaviors, p. 29

Career; Retention

- C4. Educating SOF operators, p. 12
- D2. Preventing SOF suicides, p. 15
- D6. Evaluating family accompaniment policies, p. 16
- F4. Evaluating how career SOF NCOs fare in transition, p. 27
- F6. Utilizing SOF operators after a successful military career, p. 28
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Civil Affairs; Civil Military Operations

- B4. Examining civil affairs and civil military operations in support of counterterrorism, p. 8
- F5. Assessing the use of civil affairs and civil military operations in unconventional warfare, p. 27

Communication

- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- B6. Developing phased communication strategies to support military campaigns, p. 9

Contracting; Contractors

- B3. Analyzing the use of contractors on the battlefield, p. 8
- E3. Establishing predictable contingency manning: The role of private military contractors, p. 20
- E5. Controlling cost growth in contracting, p. 21
- E7. Expeditionary contracting capabilities, p. 22

Counterterrorism

- A7. Analyzing sanctuary management in the Sahel, p. 4
- B4. Examining civil affairs and civil military operations in support of counterterrorism, p. 8

Culture

- A1. Examining operational economics in unconventional warfare and irregular environments, p. 1
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- D4. Examining the relationship between civilian culture and the military, p. 16
- E8. Supporting SOF language and culture education, p. 23
- F1. Implementing SOF mixed-gender elite teams, p. 25
- F5. Assessing the use of civil affairs and civil military operations in unconventional warfare, p. 27
- F9. Influencing attitudes in addition to behaviors, p. 29

Distributed Operations; Logistics

- A3. Assessing tactical operations for strategic effect: Is there a disconnect? p. 2
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- E1. Identifying technology to support SOF distributed operations, p. 19
- E7. Expeditionary contracting capabilities, p. 22
- F2. Supporting the joint force commander, p. 26
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26

Doctrine

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- B1. Influencing supporters of criminal and extremist activities, p. 7
- B6. Developing phased communication strategies to support military campaigns, p. 9

Education

- A1. Examining operational economics in unconventional warfare and irregular environments, p. 1

Education (cont.)

- A6. Determining the role of SOF in advising at the ministerial and senior command levels, p. 3
- C4. Educating SOF operators, p. 12
- C6. Analyzing SOF involvement in regional security organizations, p. 13
- E8. Supporting SOF language and culture education, p. 23
- F6. Utilizing SOF operators after a successful military career, p. 28
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Family

- D1. Regulating tempo: Family commitments when not deployed, p. 15
- D3. Assessing spiritual support, p. 16
- D4. Examining the relationship between civilian culture and the military, p. 16
- D6. Evaluating family accompaniment policies, p. 16
- D7. Analyzing tempo: Rotation rates, p. 17
- F4. Evaluating how career SOF NCOs fare in transition, p. 27
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Foreign Internal Defense; Security Force Assistance

- A4. Determining impact and measuring the effects of building partnership capacity and other small-footprint SOF activities, p. 3
- A7. Analyzing sanctuary management in the Sahel, p. 4
- B4. Examining civil affairs and civil military operations in support of counterterrorism, p. 8

Global SOF Network; Partner Nations

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- A4. Determining impact and measuring the effects of building partnership capacity and other small-footprint SOF activities, p. 3
- A6. Determining the role of SOF in advising at the ministerial and senior command levels, p. 3
- A8. Evaluating the cost versus benefit of maintaining a forward SOF presence, p. 4
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- C2. Building a SOF network under conditions of financial austerity, p. 11
- C3. Maintaining SOF relevance as the U.S. reduces its global military presence, p. 12
- C5. Mitigating political risks from partner-nation actions that violate U.S. norms, p. 12
- C6. Analyzing SOF involvement in regional security organizations, p. 13
- D6. Evaluating family accompaniment policies, p. 16
- E7. Expeditionary contracting capabilities, p. 22
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Governance; Government; Interagency

- A5. Exploiting urbanization and the velocity of change, p. 3

Governance; Government; Interagency (cont.)

- A6. Determining the role of SOF in advising at the ministerial and senior command levels, p. 3
- B4. Examining civil affairs and civil military operations in support of counterterrorism, p. 8
- E3. Establishing predictable contingency manning: The role of private military contractors, p. 20
- E8. Supporting SOF language and culture education, p. 23
- F7. Determining the right USSOCOM organization? p. 28

Influence

- B1. Influencing supporters of criminal and extremist activities, p. 7
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- B6. Developing phased communication strategies to support military campaigns, p. 9
- F5. Assessing the use of civil affairs and civil military operations in unconventional warfare, p. 27
- F9. Influencing attitudes in addition to behaviors, p. 29

Intelligence; Surveillance; Reconnaissance

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- A5. Exploiting urbanization and the velocity of change, p. 3
- B2. Maintaining situational awareness with a light SOF footprint, p. 7
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26
- F8. Developing SOF counter-UAS tactics and equipment, p. 29

New Domains = Cyber; Human; Space

- C1. Exploring SOF in new domains, p. 11
- C4. Educating SOF operators, p. 12

Policy

- A10. Implementing policy during a period of fiscal uncertainty, p. 5
- D6. Evaluating family accompaniment policies, p. 16
- F1. Implementing SOF mixed-gender elite teams, p. 25
- F2. Supporting the joint force commander, p. 26

Political

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- A3. Assessing tactical operations for strategic effect: Is there a disconnect? p. 2
- A5. Exploiting urbanization and the velocity of change, p. 3
- A8. Evaluating the cost versus benefit of maintaining a forward SOF presence, p. 4
- A10. Implementing policy during a period of fiscal uncertainty, p. 5
- C5. Mitigating political risks from partner-nation actions that violate U.S. norms, p. 12

Psychological

- B1. Influencing supporters of criminal and extremist activities, p. 7

Psychological (cont.)

- D5. Assessing psychological evaluations, p. 16
- F1. Implementing SOF mixed-gender elite teams, p. 25

Recruiting

- C4. Educating SOF operators, p. 12
- F6. Utilizing SOF operators after a successful military career, p. 28
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Research

- B6. Developing phased communication strategies to support military campaigns, p. 9
- E1. Identifying technology to support SOF distributed operations, p. 19
- E2. Leveraging research and development for SOF purposes, p. 20
- E6. Exploring rapid acquisition and operational employment within SOF, p. 21
- F2. Supporting the joint force commander, p. 26

Rotation Rates; Tempo

- D1. Regulating tempo: Family commitments when not deployed, p. 15
- D7. Analyzing tempo: Rotation rates, p. 17

Social Change; Urbanization

- A5. Exploiting urbanization and the velocity of change, p. 3
- B1. Influencing supporters of criminal and extremist activities, p. 7
- F5. Assessing the use of civil affairs and civil military operations in unconventional warfare, p. 27

SOF Footprint

- A4. Determining impact and measuring the effects of building partnership capacity and other small-footprint SOF activities, p. 3
- B2. Maintaining situational awareness with a light SOF footprint, p. 7

Technology

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- A5. Exploiting urbanization and the velocity of change, p. 3
- A9. Assessing the rapid acquisition of technology: Winning the current fight in a strategic context, p. 4
- E1. Identifying technology to support SOF distributed operations, p. 19
- E2. Leveraging research and development for SOF purposes, p. 20
- E6. Exploring rapid acquisition and operational employment within SOF, p. 21
- F2. Supporting the joint force commander, p. 26
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26
- F8. Developing SOF counter-UAS tactics and equipment, p. 29

Training

- A1. Examining operational economics in unconventional warfare and irregular environments, p. 1
- A6. Determining the role of SOF in advising at the ministerial and senior command levels, p. 3
- B5. Advising partner nations on logistics, p. 9
- C6. Analyzing SOF involvement in regional security organizations, p. 13
- F10. Educating SOF NCOs, p. 30

Unconventional Warfare; Irregular Environment

- A1. Examining operational economics in unconventional warfare and irregular environments, p. 1
- B3. Analyzing the use of contractors on the battlefield, p. 8
- F5. Assessing the use of civil affairs and civil military operations in unconventional warfare, p. 27

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS); Counter-UAS

- A2. Evaluating the future role of unmanned aerial systems in special warfare, p. 2
- F3. Evaluating non-standard aviation assets, p. 26
- F8. Developing SOF counter-UAS tactics and equipment, p. 29